

Appln. No. 09/544,742
Response G dated June 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 05/24/2004

REMARKS

1. CONCERNING THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-7, 9, 18, 22-32, and 37, which were rejected, have been canceled hereinabove. Claims 8 and 20, which were objected to, have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the claims from which they depended. (Claims 33 to 36 were canceled in a previous response to the Patent Office and are not pending in this application.)

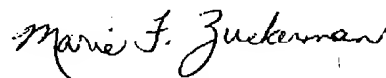
2. COPY OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF JP-A-3097623

In a Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement, dated February 6, 2004, Applicants cited Japanese patent application publication JP-A-3097623, published April 23, 1991. At that time Applicants provided to the Examiner an English-language Abstract in addition to the Japanese language document. Recently, Applicants obtained an English-language translation of the full Japanese document. A copy of said translation is enclosed herewith. The Examiner is requested to review the enclosed translation and formulate his own understanding thereof.

3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of Claims 10-17, 19, 21, and 38-46. The remaining claims have been amended hereinabove by canceling rejected Claims 1-7, 9, 18, 22-32, and 37, and rewriting in independent form Claims 8 and 20. In view of the amendments, it is submitted that Claims 8, 10-17, 19, 20, 21, and 38-46 meet all of the requirements for patentability. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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